

A NEW SPECIES OF BLOOD-SUCKING FLY (SIMULIUM)
FROM CEYLON.

By E. BRUNETTI.

NO species of *Simulium* appears to have been recorded from Ceylon, so I have pleasure in offering a description of one recently taken there by Mr. E. E. Green and Mr. F. H. Gravely.

Simulium striatum. sp. nov.

♀ Ceylon. Long. 2 mm.

Head.—Frons shining leaden gray, with a few pale hairs, face of similar colour. Back of head light gray, with sparse short pale hairs. Antennæ blackish, with light gray pubescence, the basal segments distinctly yellowish for some little distance, the whole antennæ appearing in certain lights tinged with reddish-yellow. Proboscis shining reddish-yellow, with large oval gray hairy labella placed at the base. Palpi long, slender, blackish, the first joint not much thickened.

Thorax.—Dorsum ash-gray, with scattered short bright yellow hairs, and three moderately narrow black stripes beginning just behind the anterior margin, but not continued to the posterior one. Viewed from a low angle in front the dorsum appears blackish, with four ash-gray stripes, of which the two outer ones are emarginate in the middle on their outer edges. Sides of thorax blackish-gray, with ash-gray reflections on the pleuræ.

Abdomen.—Dull black (apparently denuded of pubescence).

Legs.—Coxæ and femora yellowish or brownish-yellow, the latter more or less brown towards the tips, especially the posterior legs. Fore tibiæ dark brown, posterior tibiæ pale yellowish on basal half, brownish or dark brown on apical half, the proportions being variable. Fore tarsi black, the metatarsus, second and third joints large; middle tarsi brownish-yellow at the base, the joints very narrowly black tipped, the last two or three joints wholly black; no undue dilatation of any of the joints. Hind metatarsus considerably incrassated, pale whitish-yellow, with black tip; the next joint pale, narrowly black tipped; the remainder black; the joints, except the apical one, dilated.

Wings.—Colourless, venation normal; halteres lemon-yellow.

Described from five specimens taken by Mr. E. E. Green and Mr. Gravely at Peradeniya, Ceylon, VII., 1911 (*type*), XII., 10 and 2, VI., 10 (alt. 1,500–1,600 ft.).

Type in Indian Museum.

N.B.—In one specimen the frons is of equal width throughout, in the others of triangular form, broad at the vertex, and narrowing gradually to just above the antennæ. This is the case with the other species previously described by me, and it may be a question of shrinkage, the eyes in most females being much sunken in dried specimens. The striped thorax will distinguish this species at once from all other Oriental ones. The thoracic stripes are by no means as distinct as shown in the figure.

It may be opportune to mention here that in my description of *Simulium rufithorax** an error has crept in. It is said there that the last joint of the palpi is the largest. It should be the first joint.

See Plate following Dr. Annandale's Paper.

Figs. 4–6.—*Simulium striatum*, sp. nov.

Fig. 4.—Lateral view of the fly from the left side, $\times 16$.

Fig. 5.—Thorax and scutellum from above, $\times 27$.

Fig. 6.—Outline of wing, $\times 27$.

N.B.—In my "Notes on Ceylon Diptera" (Spol. Zeyl., Vol. VI., p. 170), referring to *Pyenosoma flavipes* Mcg., I stated it caused an outbreak of smallpox. This was a *lapsus* for cholera.

* Rec. Ind. Mus., IV., 282.